(b) if so, what are the details of the profits made as compared to 1984;

(c) what steps Government have taken during the year 1985 to improve the efficiency and also profitability of the banks; and

(d) what are the names of the banks which have achieved good working results during the said year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The final accounts of the 28 public sector banks for the year 1985 are at various stages of finalisation. Only after these accounts are finalised, it will be possible to indicate the actual profits earned by them during the year 1985 or a comparison of the same with the published profits for the year 1984. A quick estimate of the working results of the 28 public sector banks indicates that the published profits might go up by about 32 per cent in 1985 as compared to the published profits for the year 1984.

Government and Reserve Bank have taken a number of steps in 1985 for improving customer service and thereby improving the efficiency of banks. A number of specific steps have also been taken to improve the profitability of banks which include a better return on cash reserves kept with the Reserve Bank of India, higher rate of interest on food credit, the benefit of non-deduction of tax at source on interest on Government securities held by nationalised banks, allocation of additional capital to nationalised banks improved operational efficiency of the banks etc.

Illegal import of wool tops

*37. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite ban on the import of wool tops imposed by Government in August, 1986 the practice of illegally importing wool tops for domestic consumption by the importers is continuing and that some such cases have recently come to light; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the *modus operandi* of the importers and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Wool tops are in the restricted list (App. 2B of 1985—88 Policy) and no import licences for the same are being granted.

Import of wool tops was permitted against Replenishment (REP) and Duty Free Advance licence upto 9-8-1984. After this date import of wool tops is not being allowed even against REP & Advance licence.

A newspaper report alleging that import of wool tops has been made in the garb of wool waste has come to notice. Facts are being ascertained from the Customs Authorities.

Rise in the prices of atta, maida and suzi

*38. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the prices of Atta, Maida and Suzi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) As a consequence of increase in the issue price of wheat from Rs. 172|- per quintal to Rs. 190|- per quintal for public distribution system as well as roller flour mills, with effect from 1-2-1986, the State Governments|Union Territories have been advised by the Central Government to work out and notify revised exmill and retail prices of the wheat products produced by the roller flour mills, namely maida, suji, resultant atta, and bran. The revised prices are to be fixed by the State Governments|Union Territories on the basis of the existing milling margins allowed to the mills and are only to neutralise the effect of increase in the cost of wheat.

Backlog of unemepolyed persons

*39. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the backlog of unemployed persons towards the end of the Sixth Plan period; and

(b) the employment potential expected to be generated during the Seventh Plan period and whether the problem of unemployment is expected to be solved by the end of the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The backlog of unemployment at the end of the Sixth Plan period has been estimated at 9.2 million for the age-group 5-plus. The net addition to the labour force in this age-group during the Seventh Plan period would be 39.38 million. It is expected that additional employment of the order of 40.36 million standard person years would be generated during the Seventh Plan. It is expected that the backlog of unemployment at the end of the Plan would be less than that at the beginning of the Plan.

Payment to sugarcane growers by sugar mills

*40. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount at present outstanding for payment to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills, millwise, in each State;

(b) for how long the amount has been outstanding and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what fresh steps have been taken by the Central Government to ensure prompt payment for sugarcane supplies made to the mills by the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Annexure giving the sugarcane price State-wise, in respect of individual mills for 1985-86, 1984-85, 1983-84 and earlier seasons as on 31st December 1985 is attached. [*See* Appendix CXXXVII, Annexure No. 2] As would be seen therefrom, the bulk of the dues relate to the current season. The dues are high at the peak of the crushing season as the season tapers off. For the last seasons out of the total cane price of Rs. 1270 crores, only about Rs. 3.6 crores remain to be cleared as on 31-12-85, percentage-wise, the arrears for the last season are only 0.28 percent. These arrears are spread over a very large number of factories. The small amounts remained unpaid gen-